



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Friday, June 27, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Operation ASAP helps slow drivers down in an effort to prevent collisions.

Operation ASAP (Air Support Assisting Patrol) is an airplane-based traffic-enforcement program designed to target excessive speeding and aggressive drivers statewide. On Wednesday, June 25, Operation ASAP targeted a stretch of highway along Interstate 10 between the mini stack and the tunnel westbound for two hours resulting in 17 speeding violations. The highest speed recorded was 89 mph in the posted 55 mph zone.

Fixed wing aircraft have helped promote highway safety throughout the state. However, Operation ASAP is new. It is part of a strategy to help busy DPS officers in growing urban areas enforce traffic safety. Operation ASAP capitalizes on the experience of Air Support Unit pilots who are experienced Highway Patrol officers. During an Operation ASAP detail, typically one of the DPS pilots will fly the plane while the other utilizes an unmarked patrol car looking for traffic violators with the help of the aircraft. The effort on the ground is usually backed up by other DPS patrol units.

The area chosen for the special enforcement detail on June 25 has a high collision rate. Aside from handing out citations, drivers who frequently travel along westbound I-10 between the mini stack and the tunnel will now be aware that DPS will enforce the 55 mph speed limit by ground and by air.

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